



**International Covenant on  
Civil and Political Rights**

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**Human Rights Committee**

**List of issues in relation to the fourth periodic report of  
Jamaica\***

**Right to life, prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment  
or punishment and treatment of persons deprived of their liberty (arts. 6, 7 and 10)**

13. Please provide information on the results of the measures taken to improve the treatment of persons deprived of liberty, in particular steps taken to lower overcrowding in places of detention. Please provide information on the outcome of the review of the detention system carried out by the subcommittee led by the Minister of National Security and the Minister of Justice (see State party report, para. 161). Please provide information on the implementation of the measures outlined in the Administration Policy for Persons Deprived of Liberty. Please also provide information on the use of alternative non-custodial sentences used to alleviate the problem of overcrowding in prisons (*ibid.*, para. 172).

14. Please indicate the number of cases successfully brought before the courts under anti-torture provisions in domestic law such as those within the framework of the Constitution, and steps taken to define torture as a separate offence in the criminal legislation to comply with article 7 of the Covenant. Please also provide information on any results stemming from the implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the Office of the Public Defender and the Jamaica Constabulary Force which sets out a framework to reduce some of the delays in the investigation of constitutional breaches by members of the Force.

15. Please provide information on the number of persons currently on death row and details of their sentences. Please respond to reports that the conditions of those on death row remain inhumane. Please provide details on any procedures for commuting sentences from death row to life terms for persons already sentenced. Please also provide information on any steps taken to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the Covenant.

**Right to an effective remedy and fair trial (arts. 2, 6 and 14)**

17. Please provide information about the impact of the efforts made to implement the Government's Justice Reform Agenda aimed at addressing the reported backlog of cases, the reform of the justice system, including its resource constraints, and the enhancement of access to an effective legal remedy (see State party report, paras. 173-178). To what extent have the projects, pilot programmes and provision of pro-bono legal services had a positive effect on the enhancement of speedy and fair trials? Please provide information on steps to amend the Legal Aid Act.